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March 22, 1999

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Food and Drug Administration
Docket Management
Health and Human Services
5630 Fisher's Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

TO WHOM I MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to rules changes currently being considered by FDA regarding mandatory "treatment" of oysters.

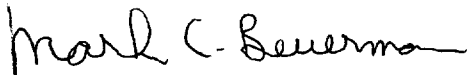
I am resident of a land-locked state and have no financial interest in this issue. I am a consumer however, and a lover of fresh oysters who is deeply unhappy by the special-interest attack on a consumer's right to choose among a variety of products.

Treated oysters are almost twice as expensive to purchase than fresh oysters in our local seafood restaurants. Fortunately, fresh oysters are still available here in town. If the FDA mandates treatment of all oysters, I will not pay more for an inferior product as the special interest groups would otherwise have me do. I will simply do without and save my money for other products not yet over-regulated by the federal government.

Clearly, if there is indeed a market for treated oysters, they should be offered to the consumer---as an alternative, not a replacement to fresh, untreated oysters.

Please reject these foolish changes and allow America's consumers to exercise their freedom of choice.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Beuerman

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